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**Region 5**  
**Hot Topics**

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**November and December 2018 Sterigenics EtO Data Posted to the Website on Feb. 5**

Key Message: The air quality data, collected in late November and December 2018, shows average readings a little over 2 micrograms per cubic meter; however, there have been readings as high as 10 and 11 micrograms per cubic meter.

The highest EtO concentrations have been detected at the two monitors closest to the two Sterigenics' buildings. As anticipated, there has been significant interest in the data release from local community groups, elected officials and news media. Both the Illinois Attorney General and the DuPage County State's Attorney issued a statement that said the new data showed a "clear link between EtO emissions from the Sterigenics facilities and elevated EtO levels within the Willowbrook community." EPA is continuing to monitor in the Willowbrook area. January data is expected to be ready for release soon.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS/MAJOR DECISIONS:

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### 02/01/2019 Updates:

#### **High Ambient Air Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Levels Detected Near Viant Medical in Grand Rapids, Mich.**

Key Message: Michigan DEQ detected the high EtO levels near the commercial sterilization facility and has issued a violation notice to the facility for violating state rules preventing air emissions that endanger human health.

Viant Medical is among the EtO sources identified as creating potential health risks in EPA's 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA). In a limited monitoring campaign, Michigan DEQ has provided additional evidence that this source creates a public health issue. Michigan DEQ intends to follow up with additional monitoring, and to hold a public meeting on this issue on March 6 in Grand Rapids.

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Office of Research and Development

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Hot Topics:

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**Sterigenics facility visit re: Ethylene Oxide (EtO), Charlotte, NC, February 12.**

To inform our research in support of OAR and the regions on instrumentation and methods development for improving Ethylene Oxide (EtO) detection limits, ORD and OAR will visit a Sterigenics facility in Charlotte, NC, which provides ethylene oxide sterilization services. The visit will include a facility tour plus information and detail as to how the facility operates.

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